

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

New independent claim 22 recites a method of operating a catheter having a linear wire and a tubular body positioned on a distal end side of the linear wire and allowing a guide wire to penetrate its hollow portion, wherein the linear wire is metal and has a solid cross-section and a covering layer composed of a resin material covering an outside of the linear wire, the method including inserting the catheter along the guide wire placed in a blood vessel, and applying a push-in force to the catheter so as to penetrate a stenotic lesion in the blood vessel, wherein the push-in force is applied by an operator from a proximal end side of the linear wire and thereby transmitted to the tubular body. Support for the method steps recited in new Claim 22 can be found, for example, in the first full paragraph on page nine of the specification.

The Official Action rejected canceled Claims 1 and 3-21 based on the disclosure in U.S. Patent No. 6,290,693 to Jung.

Jung discloses a catheter having a swivel tip housing 110 which is rotatable about a wire 102. The Official Action characterized Jung's swivel tip housing 110 as a tubular body as recited, and Jung's wire 102 as a linear wire as recited.

However, even assuming some basis existed for those interpretations, new Claim 22 is clearly distinguishable from the disclosure in Jung. Specifically, Jung does not disclose applying a push-in force to the catheter so as to penetrate a stenotic lesion in a blood vessel, wherein the push-in force is applied by an operator from a proximal end side of a linear wire and thereby transmitted to a tubular body.

Indeed, as discussed in lines 15-18 of column 3 and lines 29-31 of column 4 of Jung, the proximal end of the wire 102 is instead used as a connector for connecting with a catheter such as a PCTA catheter 504. Accordingly, Jung clearly teaches away from using the catheter as recited in Claim 22.

New Claim 22 is therefore allowable over Jung.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent Claim 22. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that the telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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